17. Introduction of Intercity Express train between Behrampur and Bhubaneswar.

Bogibil road and railway bridge over Brahmaputra river

1718. SHRI SILVIOUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years that would be required to complete the construction of Bogibil road cum Railway bridge over Brahmaputra river in Assam;

(b) whether steps have been taken to strengthen the road from Jonai to Lakhimpur (Part of NH-52) in anticipation to the increase of traffic intensity on this road and completion of the construction of bridge mentioned above; and

(c) why the four lane corridor road construction is not making any progress in Assam area in comparison to other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The construction of Bogibil Road cum Railway bridge over Brahmaputra river in Assam is likely to be completed in the year 2008-09 subject to availability of resources.

(b) Widening and strengthening of National Highway-52 from Lakhimpur to Jonai is planned to commence from the current financial year itself.

(c) The works of four laning under East-West Corridor of National Highway Development Programme in Assam are expected to be awarded by March, 2005. These works are scheduled for completion by 2007, the overall target date of completion of National Highway Development Programme.

Provision of 20,000 jobs

1719. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to provide approximately 20,000 jobs in various categories; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to provide a sizeable proportion of such jobs, say 5000, to Jammu and Kashmir State towards resolution of unemployment problem there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Direct recruitment to all Group 'C' & 'D' posts on the Railways is made by selection through Railway Recruitment Boards. The vacancies are given wide publicity including publication in the Employment News etc. and all those who apply against such notifications, are considered for recruitment on the Railways. This procedure is in conformity with the Constitutional provisions regarding euality in opportunity to all in the matter of employment under the Central Government and guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Training (which is the Nodal Department), pursuant to the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

In view of this it is not feasible to earmark any post for a particular region.

Earning of Railways

1720. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have earned Rs. 22,001 crores upto September, 2004, a surplus of Rs. 481.00 crores;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a five per cent growth in terms of passenger traffic and freight traffic by 1.34 per cent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of accidents during the period came down to 115 compared to 189 during the corresponding period of the previous year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Actual Earnings of the Railways to end of September, 04 amounted to Rs. 22178.60 crores and Ordinary Working Expenses amounted to Rs. 17451.56 crore. Hence, the net variation is Rs. 453.86 crore.

(b) The growth in passenger traffic (No. of passengers originating) on Indian Railways upto September, 2004 compared to the same period of 2003 is 5.9 per cent and that of freight is 6.9 per cent. However, if target for freight loading is taken into account, the growth is 1.34 per cent.

(c) Yes, Sir.